

Southern California Seasonal Closures Between Pt. Conception (34°, 27' N. lat.) and the Mexico border

The following regulations apply to all state waters; including fishing from shore, boat or man-made structure

| Group | Month | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| cowcod, bocaccio, yelloweye and canary rockfishes | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RCG Complex (including all species of rockfish, cabezon and greenlings as defined in Section 1.91) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| lingcod | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ocean whitefish | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| California scorpionfish ¹ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| California sheephead ² | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| California halibut ² | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| KEY | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Recreational fishing is PROHIBITED | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Recreational fishing is ALLOWED ONLY IN WATERS LESS THAN 20 FATHOMS IN DEPTH; NO MORE THAN 2 SHALLOW NEARSHORE ROCKFISH (AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1.90; INCLUDED BLACK-AND-YELLOW, CHINA, GRASS, GOPHER AND KELP ROCKFISH) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Recreational fishing is ALLOWED | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

¹ during July and August in the area known as Huntington Flats, California scorpionfish may be taken in waters less than 300 feet in depth (ref. Section 27.82[d] of the 2003 California Ocean Sport Fishing regulations.) The daily bag and possession limit is 5 fish with a minimum total length of 10 inches.

² All fishing limited to depths less than 20 fathoms (120 feet) in the Cowcod Conservation Areas. See map on back.

Bag limits, size limits, fillet lengths, skin requirements and gear restrictions for selected species:
The general bag limit allows an angler to take or possess no more than 20 finfish, with no more than 10 fish of any one species. Within the general bag limit, several species have reduced bag limits (see below). The RCG Complex (rockfish, cabezon, and greenlings) bag limit is 10 in combination of all species. The cowcod, bocaccio, yelloweye rockfish and canary rockfish bag limits have been reduced to zero; take or possession of these species is PROHIBITED. Many species have a minimum fillet length requirement and/or a skin requirement (see below). Filletting of cabezon and greenlings at sea is NOT PERMITTED. Also, rockfish and lingcod have gear restrictions placed upon their take (see below).

| Species | Bag Limit | Min. Size Limit (Total Length) | Fillet Length | Skin Requirement | Gear Restrictions |
|--|---|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| RCG Complex (including all species of rockfish, cabezon and greenlings as defined in Section 1.91) | 10 in combination of all species; NOTE: see limits for sub categories below. | see specifics | see specifics | see specifics | see specifics |
| Shallow nearshore rockfish¹ (as defined in Section 1.90; includes black-and-yellow, China, grass, gopher and kelp rockfish) | 2 fish in combination; also included in the 10 fish aggregate RCG Complex bag limit | No restrictions | No restrictions | Entire skin attached to fillet | 2 hooks and 1 line per angler while fishing for rockfish, or when rockfish or lingcod are in possession |
| Cabezon¹ (<i>Scorpaenichthys marmoratus</i>) | 3 fish; also included in the 10 fish aggregate RCG Complex bag limit | 15" | Filleting at sea PROHIBITED | Filleting at sea PROHIBITED | No restrictions |
| Kelp and Rock greenlings¹ (<i>Hexagrammos decagrammus</i> and <i>H. lagocephalus</i>) | 2 fish in combination; also included in the 10 fish aggregate RCG Complex bag limit | 12" | Filleting at sea PROHIBITED | Filleting at sea PROHIBITED | No restrictions |
| Cowcod² (<i>Sebastes levis</i>), Bocaccio² (<i>Sebastes paucispinis</i>), Yelloweye rockfish² (<i>Sebastes ruberrimus</i>) and Canary rockfish² (<i>Sebastes pinniger</i>) | Take or possession PROHIBITED | | | | |
| Lingcod (<i>Ophiodon elongatus</i>) | 2 | 24" | 18" | One inch square patch of skin attached to fillet | 2 hooks and 1 line per angler while fishing for lingcod, or when rockfish or lingcod are in possession |
| California scorpionfish (a.k.a. sculpin) (<i>Scorpaena guttata</i>) | 5 | 10" | 5" | One inch square patch of skin attached to fillet | No restrictions |
| California halibut (<i>Paralichthys californicus</i>) | South of Pt. Sur - 5 North of Pt. Sur - 3 | 22" | South of Pt. Arena - 16.75" North of Pt. Arena - filletting at sea PROHIBITED | South of Pt. Arena - entire skin attached to fillet ¹ North of Pt. Arena - filletting at sea PROHIBITED | No restrictions |
| California sheephead (<i>Samocara californica</i>) | 5 | 12" | No restrictions | One inch square patch of skin attached to fillet | No restrictions |
| Ocean whitefish (<i>Caulolatilus princeps</i>) | 10 | No restrictions | 6.5" | One inch square patch of skin attached to fillet | No restrictions |

¹ Species pictured on facing page

² Species pictured on back

³ Please see California Sport Fishing Regulations Booklet for 2003 for additional information on these and other species

Department of Fish and Game

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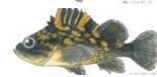
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China rockfish,
Sebastes nebulosus



Gopher rockfish,
Sebastes carnatus



Black and Yellow rockfish,
Sebastes chrysomelas



Grass rockfish,
Sebastes rastrelliger



Kelp rockfish,
Sebastes atrovirens



Rock greenling
Hexagrammos superciliosus



Kelp greenling
Hexagrammos decagrammus



Cabezon
Scorpaenichthys marmoratus

Rockfish line drawings taken from Fish
Bulletin 157, Miller and Lea, 1972
Color by Lorraine L. Sinclair, PSMFC, 2000

2003 Sport Fishing Regulations Set of 4 Pamphlets

1. Oregon Border to Cape Mendocino
2. Cape Mendocino to Point Conception
3. Point Conception to Mexico Border and Cowcod Conservation Areas
4. Channel Islands Marine Protect Areas

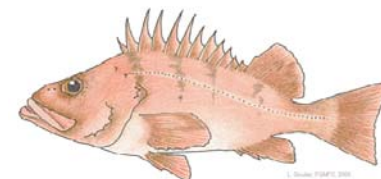
2003

Sport Fishing Regulations for Selected Species

Southern California Pt. Conception to Mexico Border and Cowcod Conservation Areas

Regulations for all rockfish, lingcod, cabezon, greenlings, California sheephead, California scorpionfish (a.k.a. sculpin), ocean whitefish and California halibut

Effective as of January 1, 2003



Cowcod, *Sebastes levis*

California Department of Fish and Game Marine Region



Report Poachers and Polluters
1-888-DFG-CALTIP

Attention All Ocean Sport Anglers: The following regulations are subject to change. Fisheries may close early if annual quota limits are reached before the end of the year. Changes will be posted on the Department of Fish and Game Marine Region

Web site at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/>

